Strengthening of **PDS**

†219. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the effective measures being taken by Government for strengthening of Public Distribution System in the country particularly in the rural, remote, hilly and tribal areas;

(b) whether there is any scheme to give foodgrains to Below Poverty Line population; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA): (a) Following measures have been taken by the Government for strengthening the Public Distribution System in the country including the rural, remote, hilly and tribal areas:—

(i) The Public Distribution system (Control) Order, 2001 has been issued on 31 st August, 2001 under Section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 with a view to curb willful adulteration, substitution, diversion, theft on stocks from the Central godowns to fair price shops are at the premises of the fair price shop etc.

(ii) A Task Force has been constituted to look into the irregularities in the implementation of the TPDS and Antyodaya Anna Yojana in the identified areas.

(iii) States/UTs have been asked to actively involve the Gram Panchayats in rural areas and local bodies in urban areas in the monitoring of the functioning of fair price shop as a measure of social audit.

(iv) A model Citizen's Charter has been issued to all the States/UTs for adoption. All the States and UTs have adopted the Charter.

(b) and (c) UnderTargeted Public Distribution System with focus on poor, foodgrains are allotted to the States/UTs for distribution to the BPL families.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.